(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 14 June 2001 (14.06.2001)

(10) International Publication Number WO 01/41625 A3

(51) International Patent Classification7:

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/41900

A61B 17/04

(22) International Filing Date:

3 November 2000 (03.11.2000)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/163,808

5 November 1999 (05.11.1999) US

(71) Applicant: ONUX MEDICAL, INC. [US/US]: 5 Merrill Drive, Hampton; NH 03842 (US).

(72) Inventors: SANCOFF, Gregory, E.: 120 Mill Road. North Hampton, NH 03862 (US). FIELD, Frederic, P.; 5 Woodland Road, North Hampton, NH 03862 (US).

(74) Agent: PANDISCIO, Mark, J.; Pandiscio & Pandiscio. 470 Totten Pond Road, Waltham, MA 02451-1914 (US).

(81) Designated States (national): AU, CA, IL, JP, MX.

(84) Designated States (regional): European patent (AT, BE, CH. CY, DE, DK. ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR).

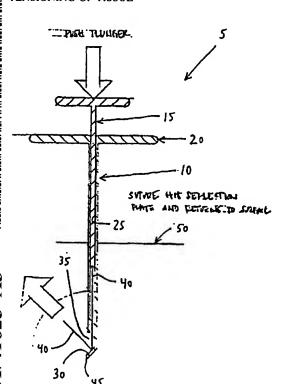
Published:

with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 2 May 2002

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PLACING SUTURE WIRES INTO TISSUE FOR THE APPROXIMATION AND TENSIONING OF TISSUE



(57) Abstract: A suture placer (10) for placing a length of suture wire (40) through tissue (50) such that the suture wire is directed into the tissue and then back out again.

WO 01/41625 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCI/US00/41900

		1	
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) :A61B 17.04 US CL :606/144, 148			
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC			
B. FIELDS SEARCHED			
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)			
U.S. : 606/144, 148			
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched			
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)			
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category* Citation of document, with indication, where	appropriate, of the relevant passages Rele	vant to claim No.	
A US 4,235,238 A (OGIU et al) 25 document.	November 1980, see entire 1-6		
A US 4,669,473 A (RICHARDS et a document.	US 4,669,473 A (RICHARDS et al) 02 June 1987, see entire 1-6 document.		
X/Y US 5,507,754 A (GREEN et al) 16 APRIL 1996, see column 8. 1 & 3-6/2			
	·		
·			
Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.			
Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "T" later document published after the international filling date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention			
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	earlier document published on or after the international filing date "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step		
cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other		
special reason (as specified) "I" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art			
P" document published prior to the international filing date but later "2" document member of the same patent family than the priority date claimed			
Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report			
25 SEPTEMBER 2001	EMBER 2001 16 NOV 2001		
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Par POT			
Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 GARY JACKSON			
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Telephone No. (703) 308-4302		